

Forum: [Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Reclaim Digital Freedom || De-Google Guide](#)

Oh_Well - August 3, 2025, 11:57 pm

? ULTIMATE DE-GOOGLE GUIDE ?

Reclaim Your Digital Freedom

WHY DE-GOOGLE YOUR LIFE? Privacy: Google tracks every click, search, and movement

Data Mining: Your personal info = their profit

Censorship: Algorithms control what you see

Vendor Lock-in: Trapped in their ecosystem

Rising Costs: Free services aren't actually free

STEP 1: SEARCH ENGINE

TOP PICK: [DuckDuckGo](#) - Zero tracking, constantly evolving

Alternatives:

- Startpage - Google results without the spying
- Brave Search - Independent index, no BigTech
- SearX - Self-hostable meta-search engine

STEP 2: BROWSER

BRAVE:

Code Recommended Brave privacy tweaks:

- Shields Settings (<brave://settings/shields>):

Trackers & ads blocking = Aggressive

Upgrade connections to HTTPS = Enabled

Block fingerprinting = Strict

Block cookies = Only cross-site

- Location Access (<brave://settings/content/location>):

Location = Blocked

- Cookie Control (brave://settings/cookies):

Block third-party cookies = Enabled

- Advanced Settings (brave://flags):

#enable-first-party-isolation = Enabled

#reduce-user-agent = Enabled

Bonus:

- Use Brave's built-in Tor window for anonymous browsing
- Enable Brave Firewall + VPN (paid feature)

Alternatives:

- LibreWolf - Firefox without Mozilla telemetry
- Mullvad Browser - Tor-level privacy
- Tor Browser - Ultimate anonymity - could be tough for everyday use cause it's slow and changes ips often

STEP 3: EMAIL

SELF-HOSTED CHAD SETUP:

Code Docker Compose Stack:

- Postfix (SMTP server)
- Dovecot (IMAP server)
- Roundcube (Web interface)
- SpamAssassin (Anti-spam)

PRIVACY PROVIDERS:

- Proton Mail - Swiss privacy laws, E2E encryption
- Tutanota - German engineering, open source
- Fastmail - No ads, proper IMAP support

STEP 4: MOBILE DE-GOGLING

GRAPHENE OS: Hardened kernel with verified boot

Sandboxed Google Play (optional)

Per-app network permissions

Alternatives:

- LineageOS - Wide device support

- CalyxOS - Privacy-focused, microG included

APP SOURCES:

- F-Droid - FOSS app repository
- Aurora Store - Anonymous Play Store access
- APKMirror - Direct APK downloads

STEP 5: CLOUD

NEXTCLOUD:

Code Features Unlocked:

[list]

[*]File sync & sharing

[*]Calendar & contacts

[*]Office suite integration

[*]Video calls & chat

[*]Photo albums with AI tagging

[*]Password manager

[*]News reader

[*]Mail client

[/list]

PHOTO MANAGEMENT:

- Immich - Google Photos alternative
- Piwigo - Web-based gallery

STEP 6: PASSWORD MANAGER

SELF-HOSTED VAULT:

Code Vaultwarden Setup:

```
docker run -d --name vaultwarden \
-v /vw-data:/data/ \
-p 80:80 \
vaultwarden/server:latest
```

Alternatives:

- Bitwarden - Free tier, open source
- KeePassXC - Offline database
- 1Password - Premium option (not FOSS)

STEP 7: DOCUMENTS

NOTE-TAKERS:

- Joplin - E2E encrypted, markdown support
- Standard Notes - Minimalist, encrypted
- Obsidian - Knowledge graphs (not FOSS)

OFFICE SUITE:

- LibreOffice - Full MS Office alternative

- OnlyOffice - Better MS compatibility
- CryptPad - Collaborative, encrypted

STEP 8: COMMUNICATION

MESSAGING:

- Signal - E2E encryption, disappearing messages
- Session - Onion routing, no phone number
- Element - Matrix protocol, federated

? VIDEO CONFERENCING:

- Jitsi Meet - No registration required
- BigBlueButton - Education-focused
- Nextcloud Talk - Integrated solution

STEP 9: NAVIGATION

OFFLINE MAPS:

- OsmAnd - Full offline navigation
- Organic Maps - Clean, fast interface
- MAPS.ME - Lightweight alternative

REAL-TIME TRAFFIC:

- HERE WeGo - Nokia's mapping service
- Magic Earth - Privacy-focused navigation

STEP 10: STREAMING

MEDIA CENTER SETUP:

Code Kodi + LibreELEC on RPi:

- Jellyfin server integration
- YouTube via Invidious
- Twitch via streamlink
- Local media library

YOUTUBE ALTERNATIVES:

- NewPipe - No ads, background play
- FreeTube - Desktop client
- Invidious - Web-based proxy

STEP 11: LOCAL AI

SELF-HOSTED LLM:

We covered that here:

[Building Your Own LLM Chatbot: The Ultimate Guide](#)

AI TOOLS:

- Open WebUI - ChatGPT-like interface
- Stable Diffusion - Image generation
- Whisper - Speech-to-text

STEP 12: NETWORK

SECURITY STACK:

Code Essential Services:

- Pi-hole (DNS ad blocking)
- Unbound (recursive DNS)
- Tailscale (mesh VPN)
- Fail2ban (intrusion prevention)
- Let's Encrypt (SSL certificates)

STEP 13: HARDWARE RECOMMENDATIONS

HOME SERVER OPTIONS: Raspberry Pi 5 - 8GB RAM, perfect for beginners

Intel NUC - More power, x86 compatibility

Old ThinkPad - Repurpose existing hardware

Proxmox VE - Virtualization platform

? DIGITAL FREEDOM - CHECK! ?

Remember: Freedom is worth every effort!

Do you have any other suggestions? Share below and I will add them here as quotes!